

# Northumbria Research Link

Citation: O'Keefe, Phil, O'Brien, Geoff, Rose, Joanne and Jayawickrama, Janaka (2011) And the circles, they go round: role of humanitarian aid. In: Southampton International Development Conference, 11-12 November 2011, Southampton, UK.

URL:

This version was downloaded from Northumbria Research Link:  
<http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/9408/>

Northumbria University has developed Northumbria Research Link (NRL) to enable users to access the University's research output. Copyright © and moral rights for items on NRL are retained by the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. Single copies of full items can be reproduced, displayed or performed, and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided the authors, title and full bibliographic details are given, as well as a hyperlink and/or URL to the original metadata page. The content must not be changed in any way. Full items must not be sold commercially in any format or medium without formal permission of the copyright holder. The full policy is available online: <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/policies.html>

This document may differ from the final, published version of the research and has been made available online in accordance with publisher policies. To read and/or cite from the published version of the research, please visit the publisher's website (a subscription may be required.)



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE



**UniversityLibrary**



**AND THE CIRCLES, THEY GO ROUND  
AND ROUND...**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON  
2011**



# GLOBAL FACTS

- Humanitarian budget 1990-2010 increase 12 fold (OECD DAC data).
- All databases, despite incompleteness, show a rise in natural hazards.
- Little disasters or mundane events have greater cumulative impact than large scale events.
- The rise in natural hazards dominated by climatic events, particularly flood and drought.
- Rule of thumb: a flood at 10% of the impact of drought gets equal media coverage – August 2010 Pakistan floods, 2000+ dead and rising, Niger drought 400,000 severe malnutrition.

# RELIEF OPERATIONS

The humanitarian aid given to people in distress by individuals, organisations, or governments with the core purpose of preventing and alleviating human suffering.

## The Principles of Humanitarian Aid

- **Impartiality:** no discrimination
- **Neutrality:** do not take sides
- **Independence:** retain autonomy

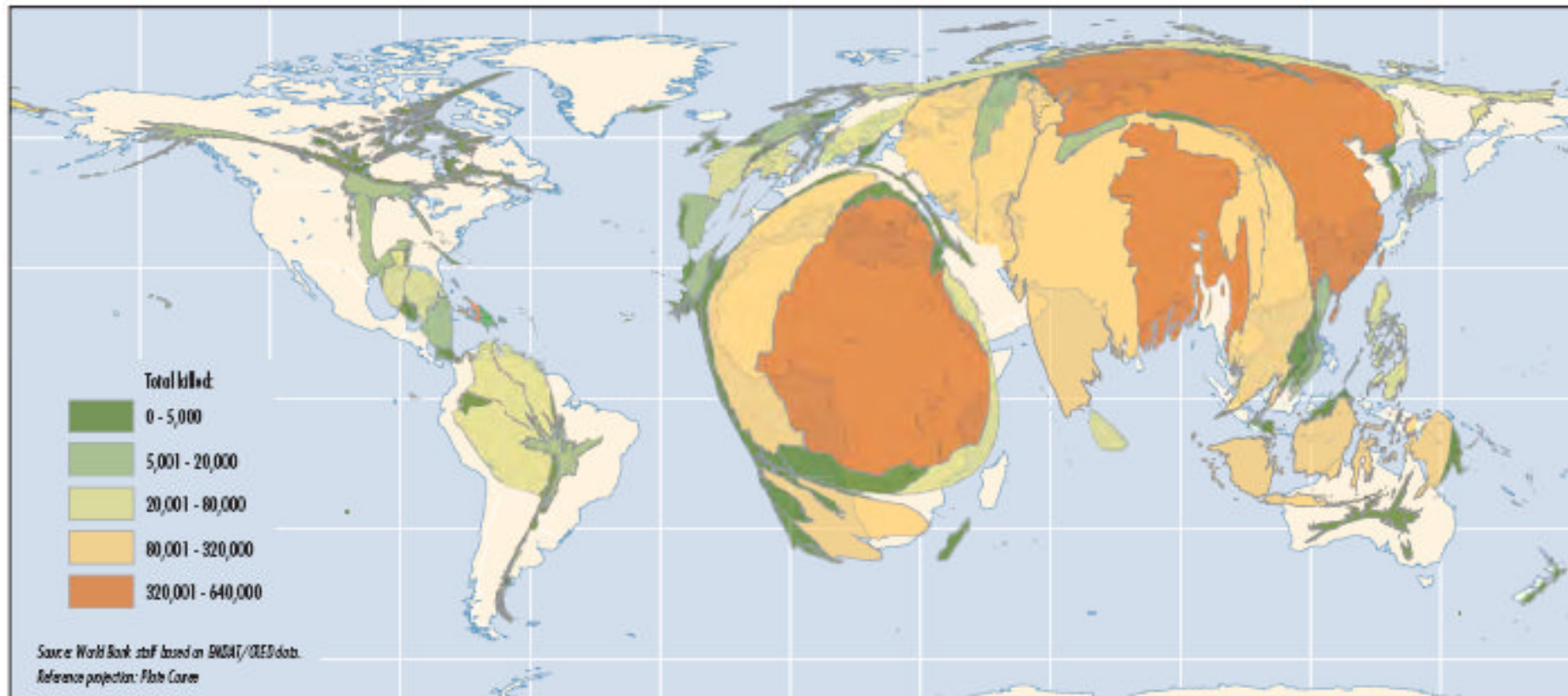


# INCREASING DISASTERS

Natural Hazards: 2000-2009 there were 385 natural disasters an increase of **233%** since 1980-1989 and **67%** increase since 1990-1999.

- Increased climatic variability
- Increased population pressures
- Environmental (???) refugees

## Deaths shrink Asia and the Americas—but expand Africa



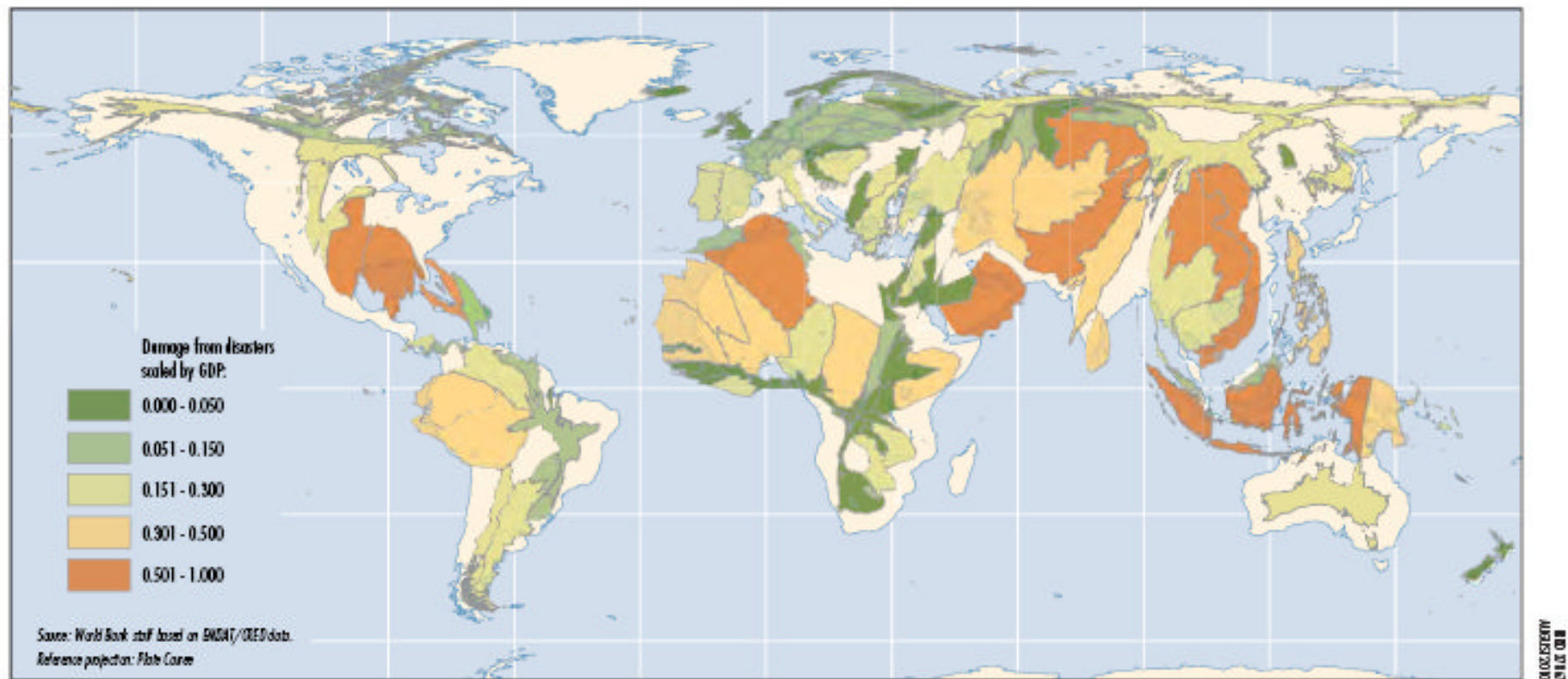
1000000  
500000  
0  
500000  
1000000

*Note:* Areas reflect cumulative deaths from disasters for 1970 to 2010 (February).

*Source:* World Bank staff based on EM-DAT/CRED.



## Damages shrink Africa but expand middle-income countries

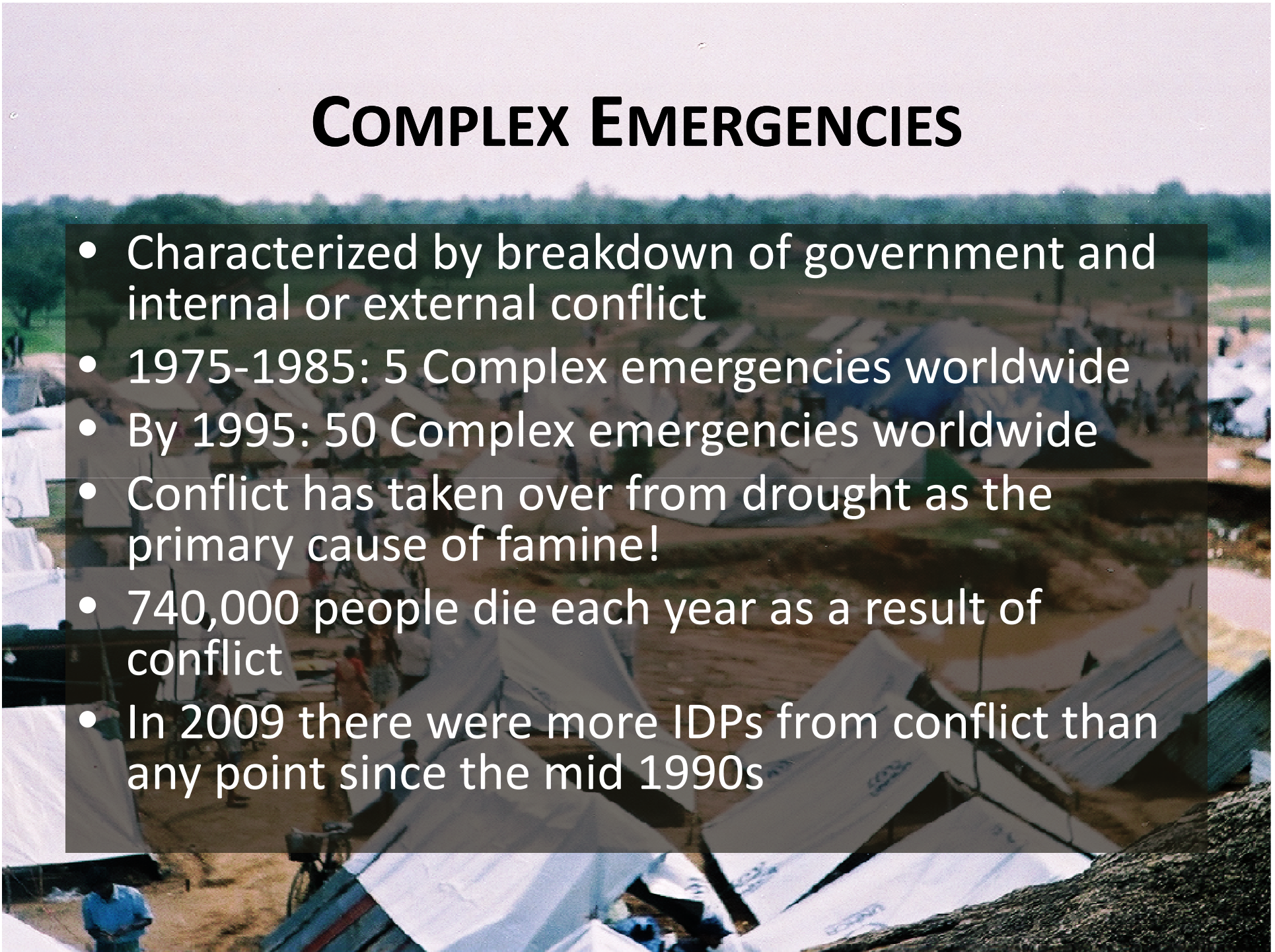


*Note:* Areas reflect cumulative damage from disasters scaled by GDP for 1970 to 2008.

*Source:* World Bank staff based on EM-DAT/CRED.

# COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

- Characterized by breakdown of government and internal or external conflict
- 1975-1985: 5 Complex emergencies worldwide
- By 1995: 50 Complex emergencies worldwide
- Conflict has taken over from drought as the primary cause of famine!
- 740,000 people die each year as a result of conflict
- In 2009 there were more IDPs from conflict than any point since the mid 1990s





# HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

## Four Main Actors

- Donor Governments
- United Nations
- ICRC
- INGOs

## The UN Division of Labour

- OCHA: Policy & Planning
- WFP: food delivery & logistics
- UNHCR: Refugees & IDPs, Shelter
- UNICEF: Child health , education, nutrition and WASH
- FAO: Emergency agriculture
- ICRC & MSF: Health
- WHO: Policy & programming

**On-the-ground management and effective coordination remains the weakest link**

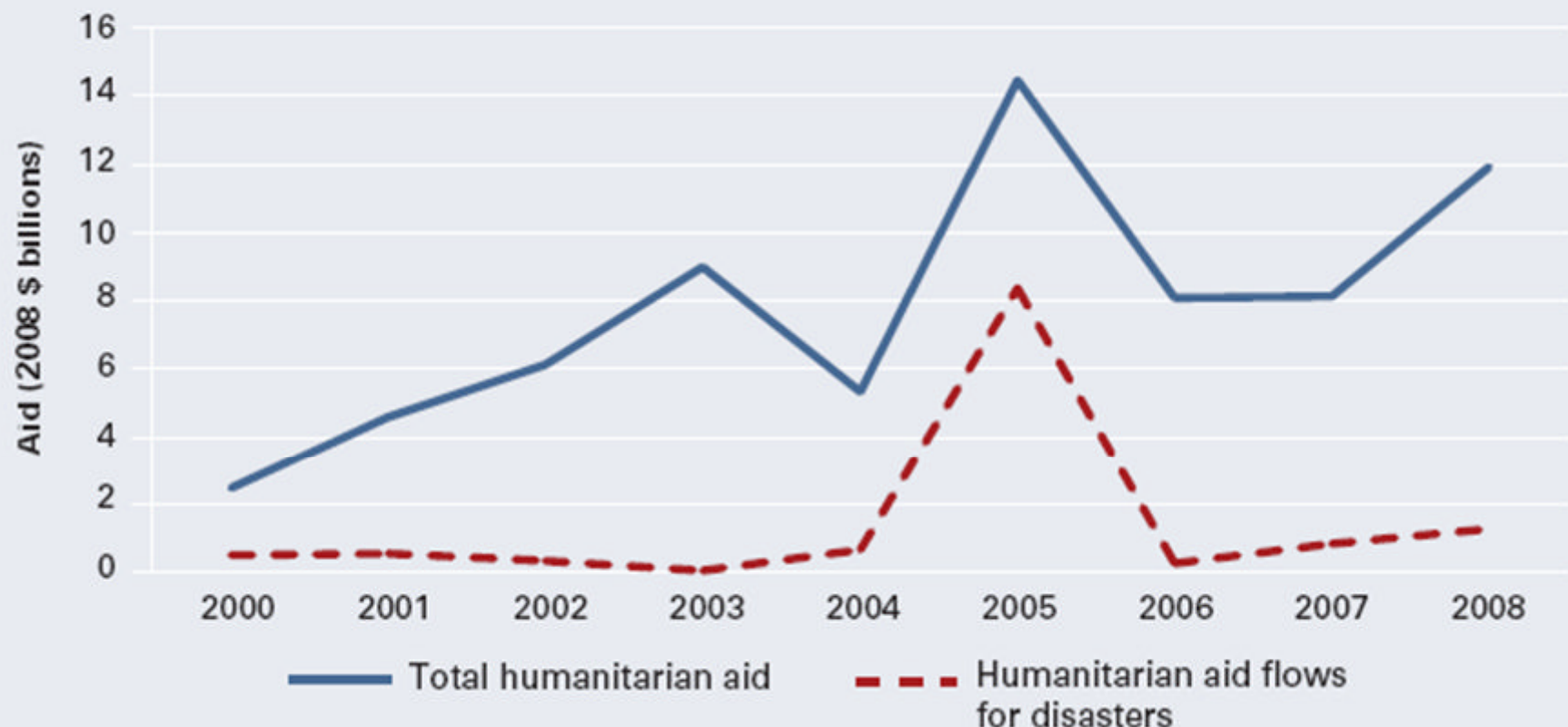


# FUNDING

- The CAP (established 1991) is the main tool for coordination, strategic planning and programming.
- Since 1992, over 100 donor countries have donated over US\$42 billion to more than 50 countries and regions.
- Aid peaked in 2005 at US\$13.1 billion and humanitarian aid budgets have continually increased since the 1980s.
- Despite increasing aid budgets humanitarian sectors remain grossly underfunded.
- In 2005, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), a UN relief fund, was established. Its aim is to address the gaps, and delays of aid contributions



### Disasters receive about a fifth of total humanitarian assistance



*Note:* Humanitarian aid is “an intervention to help people who are victims of a natural disaster or conflict meet their basic needs and rights,” while official development assistance (ODA) is “money spent on development (education, health, water supply and sanitation, agriculture, and so on) and humanitarian assistance by members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee.”

*Source:* World Bank staff based on data from the Financial Tracking System (FTS) of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

# HUMANITARIAN APPEALS

## Humanitarian Consolidated & Flash Appeal Requirements Met Per Sector

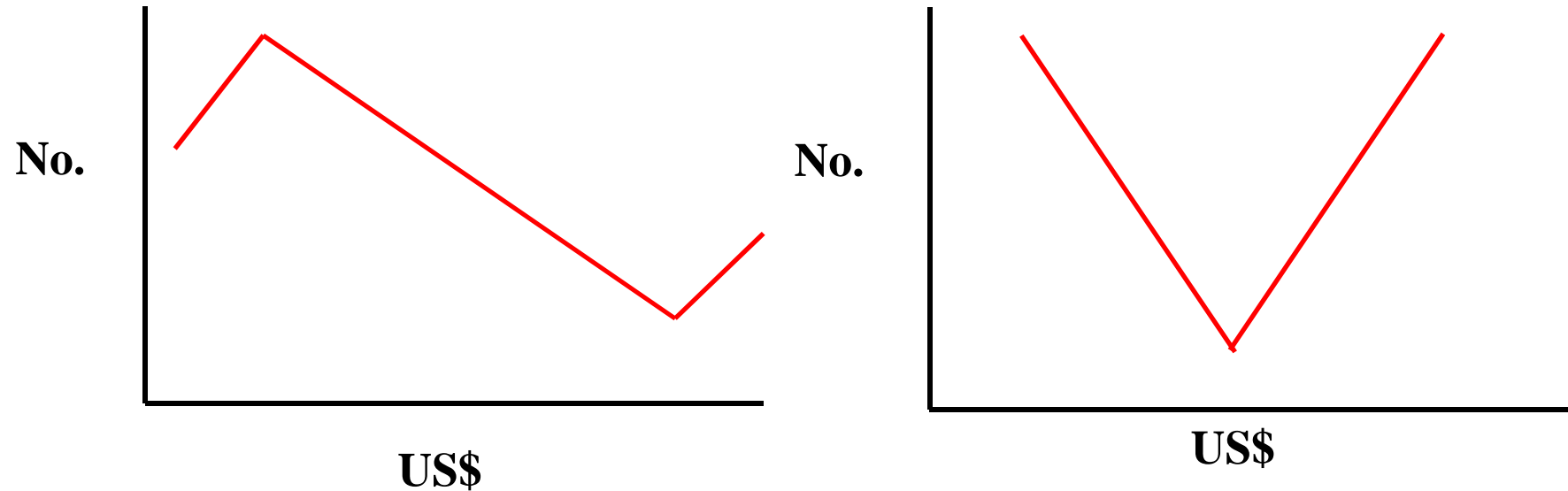
Sector	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Food	89%	88%	88%	92%	61%
Health	32%	49%	48%	47%	34%
Shelter & NFIs	27%	41%	51%	54%	33%
Water & Sanitation	30%	44%	53%	49%	27%

# GLOBAL INTERPRETATIONS

- Vulnerability associated with underdevelopment; resilience associated with development
- Under globalisation, a different level of risk



# GLOBAL INTERPRETATIONS



- The erosion of entitlement; the collapse of pre-capitalist coping mechanisms
- Understanding pre-capitalist and capitalist modes of production

**Well-Being**

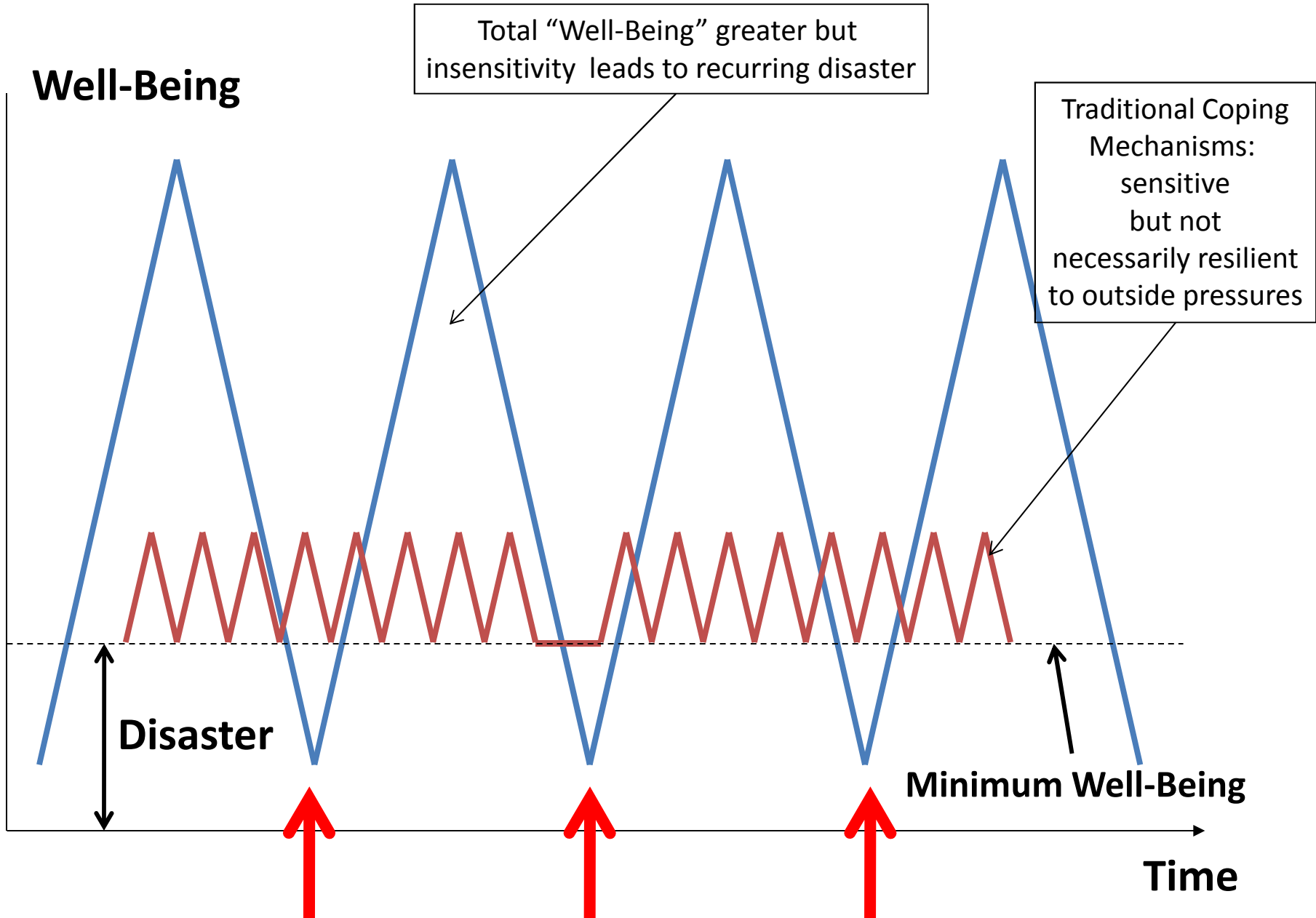
Total "Well-Being" greater but insensitivity leads to recurring disaster

Traditional Coping Mechanisms:  
sensitive  
but not necessarily resilient  
to outside pressures

**Disaster**

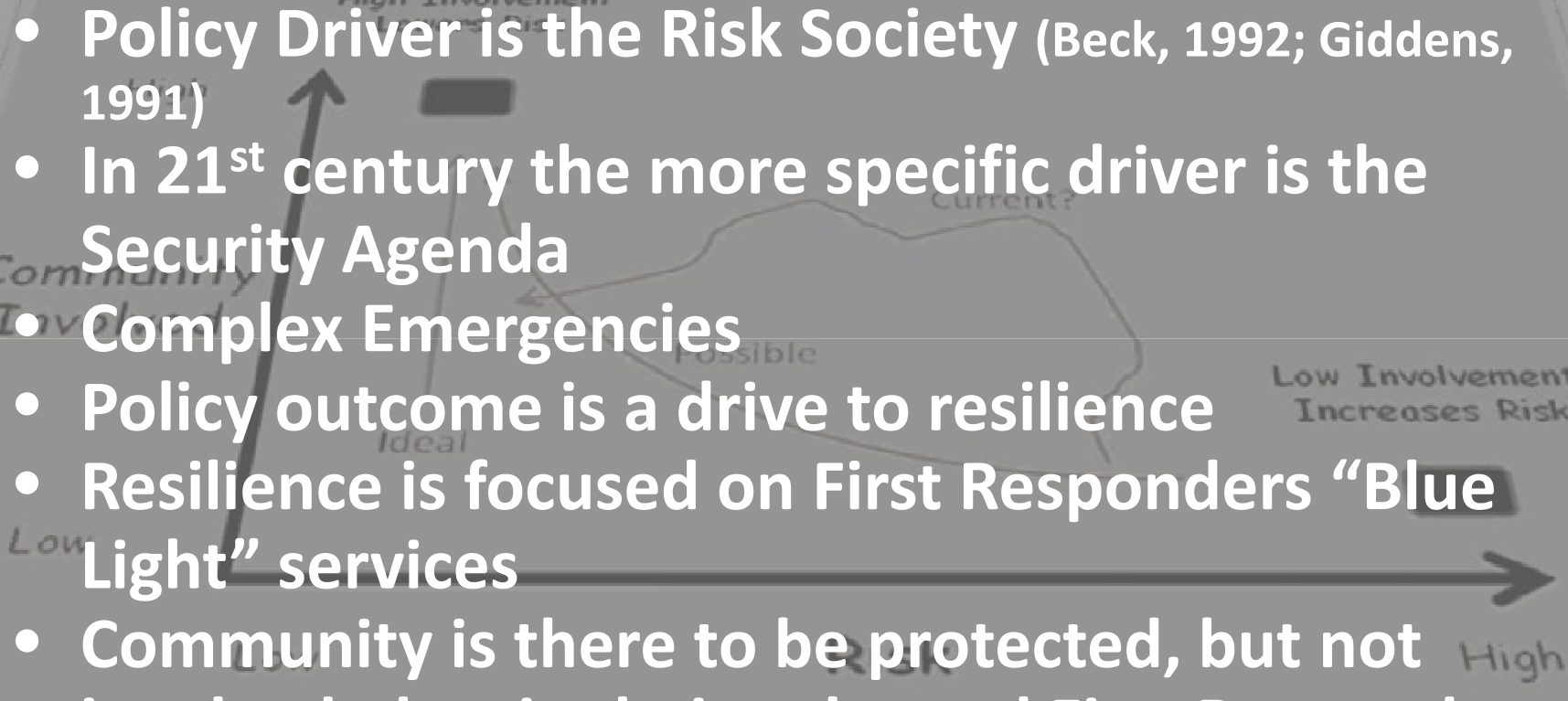
**Minimum Well-Being**

**Time**

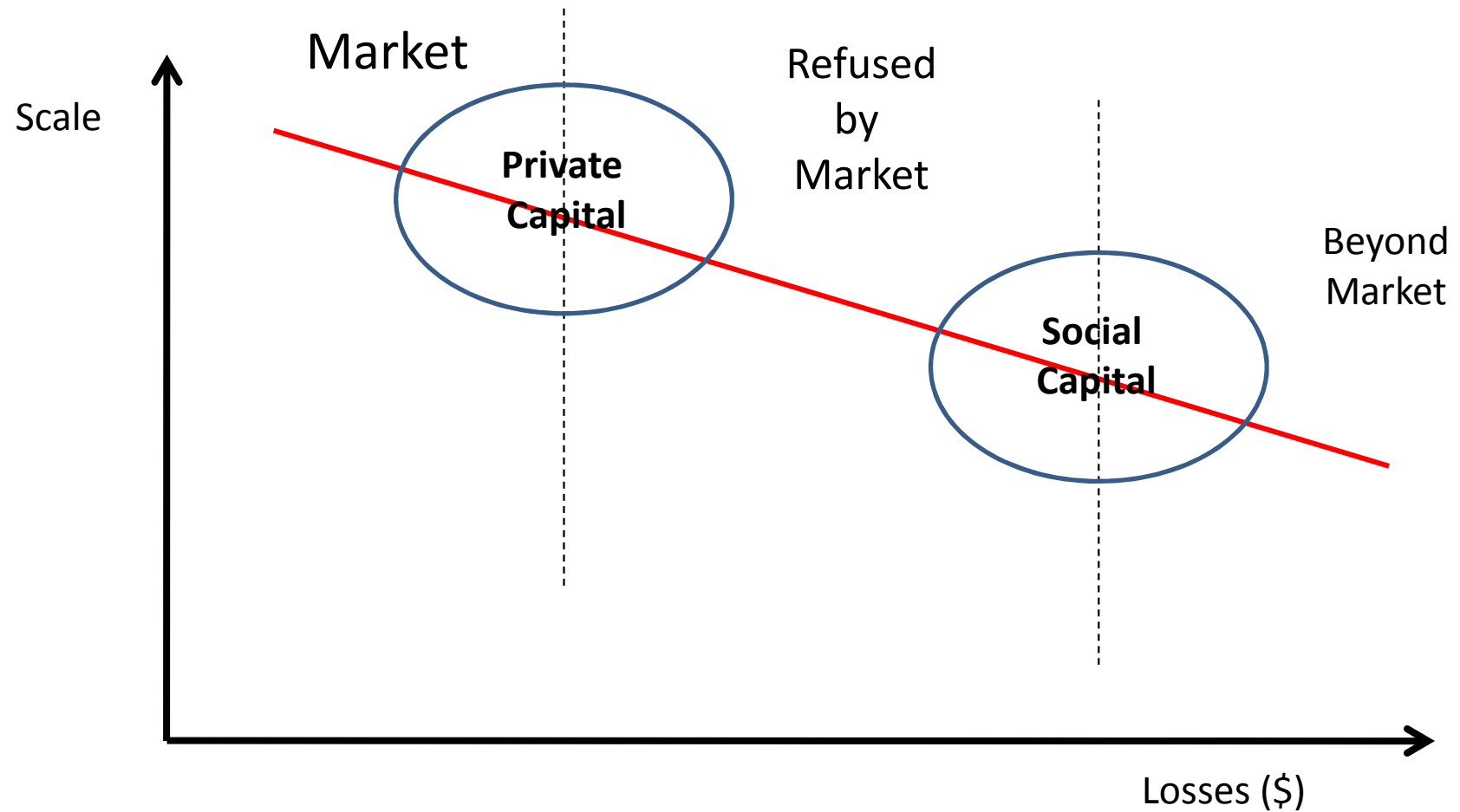




# THE DEVELOPED WORLD CONTEXT

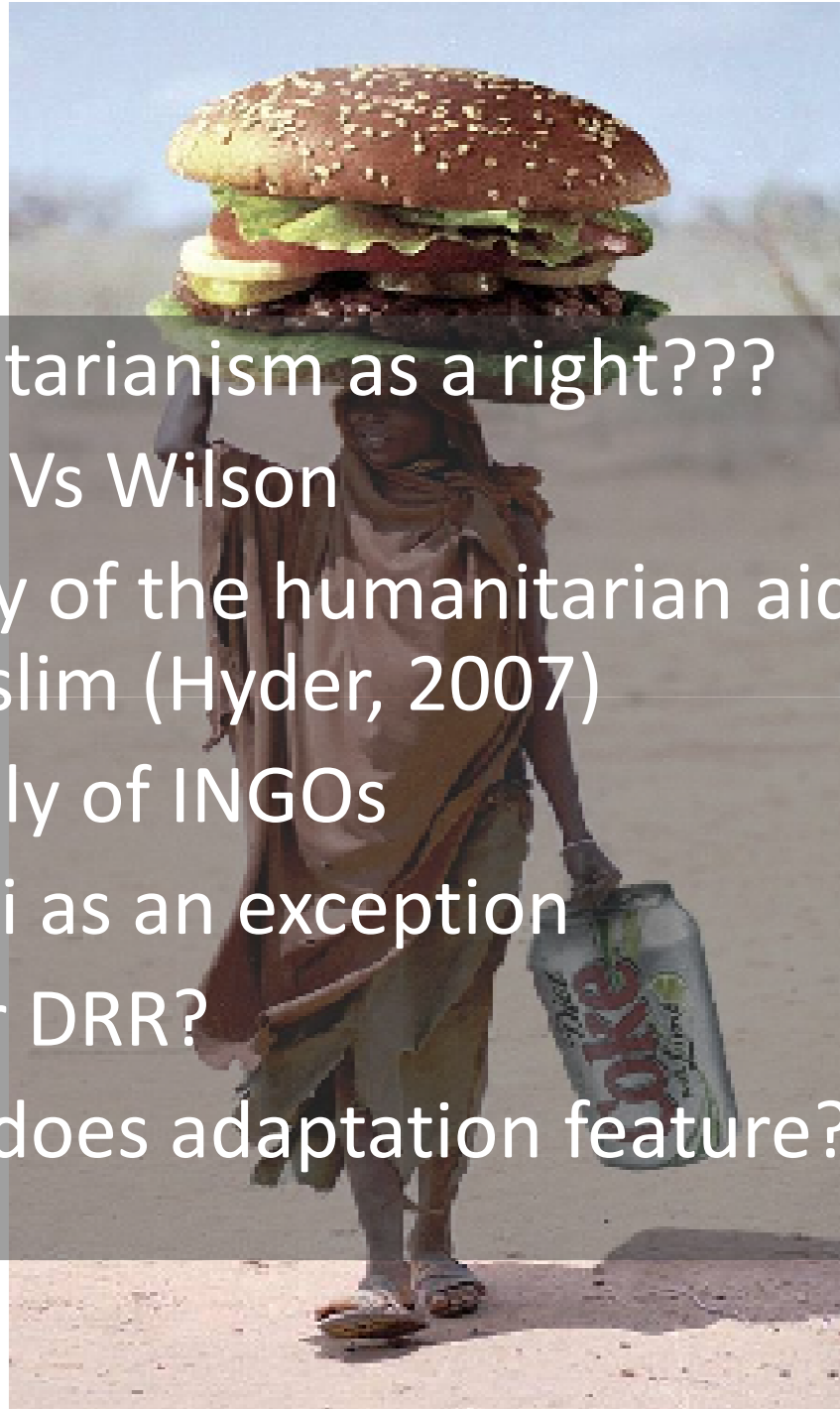
- 
- Policy Driver is the Risk Society (Beck, 1992; Giddens, 1991)
  - In 21<sup>st</sup> century the more specific driver is the Security Agenda
  - Complex Emergencies
  - Policy outcome is a drive to resilience
  - Resilience is focused on First Responders “Blue Light” services
  - Community is there to be protected, but not involved, despite being the real First Responder
  - Bounce-Back Ability is only focused Business and Responder Continuity

# THE LIMITS OF CAPITAL AND RISK



# BIG ISSUES

- Humanitarianism as a right???
- Dunant Vs Wilson
- Majority of the humanitarian aid recipients are Muslim (Hyder, 2007)
- Oligopoly of INGOs
- Tsunami as an exception
- LRRD or DRR?
- Where does adaptation feature?





# CLIMATE ADAPTATION

- The Green Climate Fund promises \$100 billion p.a. by 2020 – where will this come from?
- In 2007 UNFCCC estimated the total funding needed for adaptation by 2030 could amount to between \$49-171bn per annum globally, of which \$27 and 66bn would accrue in developing countries
- Will the new humanitarianism become adaptation?



# CONCLUSION

- Consider where we are now: DRR/CC/MDGs or MDGS/CC/DRR
- Much is beyond the market, both the event and the definition of vulnerability
- As academics we have confused the arguments by trying to incorporate everything into risk models (people, technology and hazards with all their attendant histories)
- To serve vulnerable people well we must concentrate on addressing the issues of vulnerability
- We must again un-package the paradigm of risk

# THANK YOU

Prof. Phil O'Keefe

Dr. Geoff O'Brien

Joanne Rose

Dr. Janaka Jayawickrama

## REFERENCES

- O'Brien, G. et al., (2010), Approaching disaster management through social learning, *Disaster Prevention and Management*, Vol 19; No 4
- O'Keefe, P. and Rose, J. (2008) Relief Operations, Encyclopedia of Public Health, pp506-513 Elsevier Inc.
- O'Keefe, P. and Rose, J. (2008), Humanitarian Aid, Companion to Development Studies, Chapter 9.4, Hodder Education